

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF MARINE SAFETY

**CAPSIZING OF LADY D
DCA 04 MM 015**

INTERVIEW OF DAVID BLAKELY

Baltimore, Maryland

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the National Transportation
Safety Board:

MARIETTE BURER

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 8:30 a.m.

3 MS. BURER: I'm Mariette with the National
4 Transportation Safety Board. And it is 8:30, March
5 31st.

6 Recapping the accident over at the Inner
7 Harbor that occurred with Lady D on March 6th at 4:00.

8 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, good morning. I'm David
9 Blakely. I'm just going to recap what I recall from
10 the incident that morning -- that afternoon.

11 It was the same water taxi that took us to
12 Fort McHenry. I recall that all afternoon it was very
13 windy. All afternoon. I saw some bad weather, and I
14 wanted to leave Fort McHenry as soon as possible. And
15 Nazarro and myself started -- when we saw the water
16 taxi approach, we wanted to get off Fort McHenry. So
17 -- but we had two other guys that were left behind.
18 That was Acosta and Gonzales.

19 So I told Nazarro to ask the captain if he
20 could wait a few minutes so -- so they could get on
21 board so we could all leave together. And they waited
22 a minute there. I called them up on the cell phone.
23 They came running down and we all were able to board
24 the Lady D to cross the harbor to get back to the Inner
25 Harbor.

1 I recall, before we departed, the captain --
2 captain giving his briefing on radio of the amount of
3 people on board of Lady D, and I kind of recall hearing
4 that there was going to be some gusts about 30 knots,
5 30-knot gusts. After he had that information, we
6 departed.

7 Once -- about in the middle of the bay, we
8 started getting some bad weather, and I recall that the
9 -- the front of the boat going down and some water
10 coming up on top of the front of the boat. And all of
11 a sudden, he starts maneuvering to the right. Starts
12 maneuvering the boat to the right. I recall the mate
13 telling everybody that the life preservers were under
14 the seats. And by that time, we started to capsize.

15 I recall the front door at the beginning, it
16 was kind of hard for the mate to open and close it.
17 Once we started capsizing, that was the first thing --
18 I was the first person on the front to the left. I
19 tried to open the front door as soon as it started
20 capsizing, but I was unable to do anything. It
21 wouldn't even move.

22 And I tried that, and it capsized. I
23 remember going completely -- we flipped over
24 completely. The water started rushing in very fast. I
25 started looking for some air pockets, looking up at

1 what was the floor. It was now the roof of the boat,
2 looking for water -- air pockets. I didn't see any.

3 I remember looking back and seeing things
4 floating around the boat, and maybe two or three heads
5 of people when I looked back. And then, all of a
6 sudden, there was -- I took a deep breath and
7 everything went dark.

8 I remember from that moment to feel calm. I
9 was tranquil. I felt at peace. I remember recalling
10 my friends. I thought we were -- we were going to all
11 die. I recall thinking about my life through that
12 moment. And once I realized I didn't have any way out,
13 I was about to exhale my last breath to give up, and I
14 recall seeing a light green -- light green light inside
15 the water. And as soon as I saw that, I was out of the
16 boat, on the side, looking up at everybody.

17 Once I'm out of the boat -- I think I was the
18 last person to be able to get out of the boat by
19 themselves. And I recall thinking it had to be God's
20 will that He saved me and an angel had to be able to
21 pick me up because I don't recall how I got out from
22 the boat. I was ready to give up.

23 And once I got out, I looked, saw everybody,
24 all the guys on top of it. And I saw the couple. They
25 were hugging. And she starts yelling, "Please, my kids

1 are under the boat, under the boat." And at that time,
2 I went down again, holding onto the boat. I got my
3 hands inside -- I guess a window, I don't know what --
4 inside, and I grabbed a leg. I remember pulling that
5 leg out, and it was the mate. And I got him out and
6 got him against the boat. And he was -- his face was
7 purple. He wasn't breathing.

8 Then I started yelling to Nazarro to help
9 him, to get him out of the boat, out of the water, on
10 top of the boat. And once they did that, I started
11 yelling, "CPR, CPR." And then I remember I went down
12 about two more times to see if I can do the same thing
13 and see if I can get somebody else, but I wasn't able
14 at that time. I couldn't get anybody else out.

15 I never felt cold or anything during this. I
16 recall one person on the side of the boat, one man
17 hanging on. And he had a -- he wore -- he had a life
18 preserver, but he didn't have it on. He was just like
19 grabbing it.

20 I recall Nazarro yelling at me that there was
21 a woman. She was drifting away from the boat. She was
22 in the water. I don't know if she had a life preserver
23 on or not. She was drifting away, and I went out and
24 grabbed her by the shoulder and pulled her against the
25 boat, and Nazarro and I don't know who else helped them

1 -- helped her get on the boat.

2 Once I noticed that the Navy was coming to
3 rescue us, I called the guys to help the man that had
4 the life preserver on the side of the boat, to get him
5 out of the water, because I thought maybe they could --
6 the Navy boat was so tall that they wouldn't see him
7 and maybe he would get caught between the two boats.
8 So we helped get him out.

9 I recall, I think I was the last person out
10 of the water once they got there, so I -- I got on --
11 on the boat from the back. I went around the water
12 craft and got on the boat from the back of the boat.

13 And then, I'm there and we started helping
14 everybody get on. I recall I was trembling for about
15 three hours. I recalling helping the Navy guys getting
16 -- I think it was the daughter of the woman who died
17 that didn't die that same day, getting her out. I was
18 hanging on her -- her arm. I was so tired. I started
19 yelling for somebody else to give me a hand. There was
20 about three of us. She was just hanging by the side of
21 the boat, and somebody came and helped me. So I let
22 them work the issue and I just went to the side and
23 started trembling and talking to the other people and
24 just, you know, getting some moral support.

25 I recall the Navy picking up the water taxi

1 on the side. That's when the other two bodies started
2 floating out. They helped those other people.

3 I recall the Fire Department -- they used the
4 Fire Department boats like an ambulance. They got the
5 people on that -- on those boats, fast boats, and took
6 them down to the dock to get them on the ambulance to
7 get them to a hospital.

8 I'm ready for some questions now.

9 MS. BURER: Okay. I guess let's start from
10 the beginning. Do you recall anyone left behind at
11 Fort McHenry when you guys were boarding with the --
12 coordinator?

13 MR. BLAKELY: I remember seeing people coming
14 down. You know, everybody starts walking down to get
15 the water taxi. I don't know if anybody was left
16 behind.

17 MS. BURER: Okay.

18 MR. BLAKELY: I remember he called in 25. I
19 remember that. He called in 25 people on board.

20 MS. BURER: Okay.

21 MR. BLAKELY: And once the guys that we were
22 waiting for got on board, we departed.

23 MS. BURER: And those guys were your guys?

24 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah.

25 MS. BURER: That was --

1 MR. BLAKELY: That was the ones that we asked
2 them to please stay for a minute 'til they got down.

3 MS. BURER: Okay.

4 MR. BLAKELY: I kind of recall people just
5 like walking down there to get on the boat or the next
6 boat or whatever.

7 MS. BURER: Okay.

8 MR. BLAKELY: And it was a very, very windy
9 day that day because when we were at Fort McHenry --

10 MS. BURER: Yeah.

11 MR. BLAKELY: -- you know that flag that they
12 fly there, that was --

13 MS. BURER: Yeah.

14 MR. BLAKELY: -- it was flying.

15 MS. BURER: Okay.

16 MR. BLAKELY: And the wind was very -- it was
17 gusting all -- all afternoon.

18 MS. BURER: Okay. So the -- the wind was
19 already in the -- in that condition --

20 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah.

21 MS. BURER: -- prior to boarding?

22 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah. Since we got to Fort
23 McHenry, it was like that.

24 MS. BURER: Okay.

25 MR. BLAKELY: It was gusting.

1 MS. BURER: Okay.

2 MR. BLAKELY: Constantly. I recall the flag
3 -- I think we even took some pictures of the flag. it
4 was --

5 MS. BURER: When you --

6 MR. BLAKELY: -- blowing.

7 MS. BURER: When you stepped on board the
8 pontoon, did you visualize the pontoon at all? Did it
9 need any kind of inspection?

10 MR. BLAKELY: No, I --

11 MS. BURER: The conditions of the pontoon
12 itself.

13 MR. BLAKELY: No. At the time I stepped on,
14 no. I just stepped on, I sat down, I started looking
15 to the front.

16 MS. BURER: Okay.

17 MR. BLAKELY: I remember that much.

18 MS. BURER: Okay.

19 MR. BLAKELY: I do recall, once we left, kind
20 of seeing the pontoon a little bit low in the front.
21 You know, when you're hitting the waves --

22 MS. BURER: Yes.

23 MR. BLAKELY: -- the water would come on
24 front.

25 MS. BURER: Right.

1 MR. BLAKELY: So then, I recall that. The
2 water coming on the front of it.

3 MS. BURER: Okay. All right.

4 MR. BLAKELY: And I recall once it was
5 tipping right -- to the right a little bit in front and
6 the water going on top of the front.

7 MS. BURER: And then, was it able to come
8 back out again --

9 MR. BLAKELY: Yes.

10 MS. BURER: -- once the water -- when it --

11 MR. BLAKELY: Before it capsized --

12 MS. BURER: Yes.

13 MR. BLAKELY: -- it kind of like went down to
14 the right.

15 MS. BURER: Yes.

16 MR. BLAKELY: And then it just kind of went
17 down, went like this, and kind of like tipped over.

18 MS. BURER: Okay.

19 MR. BLAKELY: Kind of like that.

20 MS. BURER: What was the captain doing --

21 MR. BLAKELY: He was attempting to maneuver.
22 I recall him maneuvering the boat.

23 MS. BURER: Okay, okay. When -- when the
24 water first entered into the boat in the front, when
25 you first told me, right, because it had been --

1 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, we were going --

2 MS. BURER: -- a couple of times? As far as
3 the water getting onto the front? You were going to
4 the right.

5 MR. BLAKELY: At the -- no, at the beginning
6 we were going towards the Inner Harbor.

7 MS. BURER: Right.

8 MR. BLAKELY: And then, a few times it kind
9 of went down and a little bit of water would come on --
10 on top.

11 MS. BURER: Okay.

12 MR. BLAKELY: And then he -- he started kind
13 of like maneuvering and it kind of went to the right.

14 MS. BURER: Okay.

15 MR. BLAKELY: And then it went -- then the --
16 like it went -- went in a little bit. Then he went to
17 the right completely, then it went.

18 MS. BURER: Okay, okay.

19 MR. BLAKELY: I think because of the wind and
20 the -- the wave's movement.

21 MS. BURER: Was he able to recover at all
22 when he --

23 MR. BLAKELY: No.

24 MS. BURER: -- turned to the right the first
25 time?

1 MR. BLAKELY: No.

2 MS. BURER: Okay.

3 MR. BLAKELY: He went right, and when he
4 turned right, then we capsized.

5 MS. BURER: Okay. And that's when the water
6 was coming in at the front of the pontoon?

7 MR. BLAKELY: No, no, I think it started
8 coming in like -- like a little bit before that. I
9 think he started to move once he saw kind of like the
10 water in the front a little bit.

11 MS. BURER: Okay.

12 MR. BLAKELY: And the wind picked up some.
13 I don't recall -- the door was closed. I don't recall
14 any windows open at the time.

15 MS. BURER: Okay. As far as the seating
16 arrangements, do you -- of the -- do you recall -- did
17 you feel that --

18 MR. BLAKELY: I --

19 MS. BURER: -- that it was pretty balanced?

20 MR. BLAKELY: I recall some people moving on
21 deck, but I don't recall looking back --

22 MS. BURER: Right.

23 MR. BLAKELY: -- because I recall the -- the
24 mate said, "Please sit down," and whatever. I recall
25 some people were just moving around on deck.

1 MS. BURER: Right. Okay.

2 MR. BLAKELY: I recall that movement, but I
3 think it was kind of a -- I don't know. It looked a
4 little bit low. The pontoon looked a little bit low.

5 MS. BURER: When you first stepped on?

6 MR. BLAKELY: No, before -- when we were
7 reeling. The front looked a little bit low.

8 MS. BURER: Okay. Can you elaborate?

9 MR. BLAKELY: The water level.

10 MS. BURER: Yes.

11 MR. BLAKELY: Pontoon is a bit higher, you
12 know. Maybe not to normal -- I don't know what the
13 normal is, what the water line is -- the water level.

14 MS. BURER: Right.

15 MR. BLAKELY: It looked a little bit low to
16 me.

17 MS. BURER: The boat -- the pontoon was
18 sitting lower into the water; the water was higher?

19 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, once we -- yeah. When we
20 started hitting the waves.

21 MS. BURER: Okay, okay. But you didn't have
22 that kind of impression when you were first boarding or
23 stepping onto the pontoon?

24 MR. BLAKELY: No, because once we left, I'm
25 looking to the front and I'm seeing -- you know, I'm

1 just staring at the front all the time and seeing the
2 water and seeing how -- how it's moving inside of the
3 -- the water, the waves coming up.

4 MS. BURER: Right, right.

5 MR. BLAKELY: So, kind of -- seemed kind of
6 low. The front was kind of low.

7 MS. BURER: Okay, okay.

8 MR. BLAKELY: But, you know, that happens
9 when you go over the -- the waves and come back up
10 again.

11 MS. BURER: Right.

12 MR. BLAKELY: So, that was low. I don't know
13 if it's because of the wave or whatever, but -- or the
14 pontoon carrying water inside. Who knows.

15 MS. BURER: Okay, okay. Did you have any
16 kind of reaction to it when the water was coming into
17 the front?

18 MR. BLAKELY: No, I think that's normal
19 because, you know, for instance, they had that flat
20 floor.

21 MS. BURER: Yes.

22 MR. BLAKELY: The water can come up, it can
23 go over, it can come on the floor and it will go out
24 again. So I didn't have any concern at that time.

25 MS. BURER: Okay.

1 MR. BLAKELY: Really. I think once we went
2 sideways, I don't know if he was looking, trying to get
3 to the other side on time, or to get away from the wind
4 and all that. He started to go to the side or he
5 started to maneuver. I don't know what he had in his
6 mind at that time.

7 MS. BURER: And what side are we talking
8 about again?

9 MR. BLAKELY: To the right. Starboard?

10 MS. BURER: Yep.

11 Okay. So when he made his first turn to the
12 right, take it from --

13 MR. BLAKELY: I can recall that we went -- we
14 went a little bit down. So, like, we went up. And
15 then he started kind of like maneuvering. I don't know
16 if he wanted to get to the other side to get out of the
17 wind or something. And once he -- he -- the boat
18 started to go sideways and the wind and the waves
19 tipped us over.

20 MS. BURER: Okay. How fast -- I mean, as far
21 as time period is concerned, do you recall --

22 MR. BLAKELY: I don't have any -- any recall
23 of time.

24 MS. BURER: Okay.

25 MR. BLAKELY: I have no time frame. I just

1 remember one of the guys joking around, and he said, "I
2 think this is going to tip over, I'm going to take some
3 pictures," and he took two pictures before we went
4 over.

5 MS. BURER: Right. And who was that?

6 MR. BLAKELY: That was Acosta.

7 MS. BURER: Oh, one of the guys in your
8 group?

9 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah.

10 MS. BURER: Okay. Was he sitting --

11 MR. BLAKELY: He was sitting on the opposite
12 side.

13 MS. BURER: Opposite side.

14 MR. BLAKELY: I know he got the picture of
15 us. We were kind of like sitting in front, and he got
16 the picture of the front. And you guys, I think, have
17 those pictures.

18 MS. BURER: Right. Do you recall anything as
19 far as seating arrangements?

20 MR. BLAKELY: No. I just recall the mate
21 trying to calm down all the people once they got up,
22 but -- but I don't -- I wasn't looking back, so I don't
23 know what happened in the back.

24 MS. BURER: Right.

25 MR. BLAKELY: I was concentrating on the

1 front always.

2 MS. BURER: Okay. You were actually looking
3 out --

4 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah.

5 MS. BURER: -- this way, right?

6 MR. BLAKELY: This way.

7 MS. BURER: You were not looking across.

8 MR. BLAKELY: I was looking here. I was
9 looking at this pontoon. That's what I recall. It
10 went down.

11 MS. BURER: Okay.

12 MR. BLAKELY: The front went down like that
13 and got up again.

14 MS. BURER: Okay.

15 MR. BLAKELY: I was looking at this whole
16 front here.

17 MS. BURER: Okay. All right.

18 MR. BLAKELY: I was kind of looking out the
19 main front door. I could -- saw glass. I could see
20 both sides in front and a little bit of water coming
21 in. That's why I wasn't concerned, because the water
22 would come up. Even though you could get all the waves
23 coming up, the water would go out the sides. It was
24 not going to get full of water, you know, and sink.

25 MS. BURER: Right.

1 MR. BLAKELY: So --

2 MS. BURER: Okay.

3 MR. BLAKELY: -- I felt comfortable at that.

4 MS. BURER: You did feel comfortable, okay.

5 MR. BLAKELY: Once we went sideways, then
6 that was another story. Once we went sideways, that's
7 when we tipped over.

8 MS. BURER: Right.

9 MR. BLAKELY: But it capsized so fast that --

10 MS. BURER: You never felt that it tilted
11 once or twice or three times; it just all -- like in
12 one fell swoop?

13 MR. BLAKELY: I remember I was kind of like
14 sideways, trying to open the door, but it went over so
15 fast.

16 MS. BURER: Okay.

17 MR. BLAKELY: It didn't take too much time.

18 MS. BURER: All right. Do you recall any of
19 the conditions as far as the windows or the doors or
20 the pontoon or any of that stuff, regarding the boat?

21 MR. BLAKELY: I just recall that the door was
22 hard to open and close, even for the ship mate --

23 MS. BURER: Right.

24 MR. BLAKELY: -- to open and close it. It
25 wasn't leveled off. He had to like move it a little

1 bit, shake it a little bit so it would close. I
2 remember that.

3 MS. BURER: And he was doing that when all of
4 you were coming on board?

5 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, when he closed the door
6 before we left.

7 MS. BURER: Okay, okay. So at that time it
8 was already jamming a little bit, or -- or --

9 MR. BLAKELY: Apparently, he -- he like --
10 shake it a little bit so it would close.

11 MS. BURER: Okay.

12 MR. BLAKELY: It was (inaudible) open and
13 closing. I kind of like recall that because the first
14 thing I went to to try to open once we went sideways
15 was for the door, and it didn't even move.

16 MS. BURER: Right.

17 MR. BLAKELY: It didn't move.

18 MS. BURER: Right. Okay. So, where do you
19 think you got out?

20 MR. BLAKELY: I don't have the slightest
21 idea.

22 MS. BURER: Okay.

23 MR. BLAKELY: I -- I know I should have been
24 -- if you look at the picture, the picture when the
25 Navy guys are going to rescue us --

1 MS. BURER: Yeah.

2 MR. BLAKELY: -- there's -- there's a man
3 right here in black on the left. I was in that area.
4 I think I was under the water. I was more or less --

5 MS. BURER: Right.

6 MR. BLAKELY: -- in that area when I got out.

7 MS. BURER: Right.

8 MR. BLAKELY: I don't know where I got out.

9 MS. BURER: Okay.

10 MR. BLAKELY: I don't recall. I was -- I was
11 ready to die at that time, so.

12 MS. BURER: Yes.

13 MR. BLAKELY: I just recall seeing that --
14 that light green light under, and when I knew it, I was
15 out of the water. And then, when I saw the yelling
16 from -- from that couple, from the mother, I went down
17 again. But I don't know how I got out.

18 MS. BURER: How many times do you think you
19 went down?

20 MR. BLAKELY: I think about three.

21 MS. BURER: Three times, okay.

22 MR. BLAKELY: I recall three times.

23 MS. BURER: And when the Navy boat picked up
24 the side of the boat, the capsized pontoon, what side
25 was it that they picked up? Do you recall?

1 MR. BLAKELY: I think it was the right side.

2 MS. BURER: Okay. And then how many bodies
3 were floating out?

4 MR. BLAKELY: I think three bodies floated
5 out. But I -- I don't recall -- the girl's body.
6 Something tells me that a man's body floated out but
7 they were unable to get a hold of him, and the lady --
8 the daughter of the lady who died.

9 MS. BURER: Yeah.

10 MR. BLAKELY: I recall, because the guys had
11 her on the side. I was helping them get her out.

12 MS. BURER: "On the side"? What do you mean,
13 "on the side"?

14 MR. BLAKELY: On the side of the Navy boat.

15 MS. BURER: Okay.

16 MR. BLAKELY: She was heavy. There was about
17 three of us just hanging onto her.

18 MS. BURER: Okay.

19 MR. BLAKELY: And then, when I started
20 yelling for somebody to come and help, then they
21 lowered down the front --

22 MS. BURER: Right.

23 MR. BLAKELY: -- with the --

24 MS. BURER: Ramp.

25 MR. BLAKELY: -- the ramp, they lowered it

1 down and then they were able to get her on.

2 MS. BURER: Okay.

3 MR. BLAKELY: And then they started CPR
4 immediately with her.

5 MS. BURER: Okay. Do you recall what
6 happened to the little girl and the man?

7 MR. BLAKELY: No.

8 MS. BURER: Okay.

9 MR. BLAKELY: I know that -- I know that I
10 heard that they got the girl out and they put her on
11 the Fire Department boat and got her. That's what I
12 recall about her. I was told that; it's not that I saw
13 that.

14 MS. BURER: Okay.

15 MR. BLAKELY: I was told that. And I was
16 told about the man that drifted out. I was in the
17 front -- in the front helping the girl's daughter lady.

18 MS. BURER: Okay. With your recollection,
19 what vessels did you see out there aside from the
20 capsized pontoon that we just talked about --

21 MR. BLAKELY: The Navy barge.

22 MS. BURER: -- the Navy barge --

23 MR. BLAKELY: And about -- I would say about
24 two -- I don't know how many; two or more Fire
25 Department boats. That's what I recall.

1 MS. BURER: Okay.

2 MR. BLAKELY: It could have been Police, but
3 I think they were Fire.

4 MS. BURER: Okay. And then, as far as debris
5 around you, what did you see? Can you describe
6 anything about that?

7 MR. BLAKELY: No, I don't recall any debris.
8 I was concentrated -- I was in the water at all times
9 and concentrating on going down and up in the water. I
10 don't recall any -- any debris. The only person that I
11 recall, the one I told you. If you see him in the
12 picture, you can see the life preserver. He was
13 hanging on one. He didn't have it on.

14 MS. BURER: The gray hair?

15 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, he was just hanging on
16 one. The one who was inside of the boat. He was in
17 the water. He was about the last -- I was the last
18 person. We got him out before the Navy Reserve boat
19 got there. And he was hanging on one, that I recall.

20 MS. BURER: Were you the last person on board
21 the capsized pontoon or the last person on board the
22 Navy?

23 MR. BLAKELY: I was the last person, I think,
24 on the capsized pontoon.

25 MS. BURER: Okay.

1 MR. BLAKELY: I recall I think I was the last
2 person in the water because I went -- I helped get the
3 man who was on the side before the Navy barge got close
4 to us because I thought maybe they could, you know, get
5 him in between. So we got him out, and once he was
6 out, so I -- I moved around and I got on.

7 MS. BURER: Okay. Moved around to what side?
8 Do you remember?

9 MR. BLAKELY: I think it was to the front
10 because you could -- I barely could get on the side
11 because it was too hard. So I moved around. It was
12 lower in the front, so I think I got onto the front of
13 the water taxi.

14 MS. BURER: Did people help you or did you do
15 it on your own?

16 MR. BLAKELY: I did it on my own.

17 MS. BURER: Do you recall how many people
18 were on the capsized pontoon, being the last person to
19 --

20 MR. BLAKELY: No.

21 MS. BURER: Okay. Do you recall how long --
22 what is your time estimate as far as getting out there
23 from when the capsized --

24 MR. BLAKELY: I don't have any time frame.

25 MS. BURER: Okay.

1 MR. BLAKELY: No time frame at all.

2 MS. BURER: So, I mean, as far as feeling
3 whether the Navy people got there fairly quick or
4 whether it took them a long time to --

5 MR. BLAKELY: No.

6 MS. BURER: Do you recall anyone wearing a
7 life jacket?

8 MR. BLAKELY: No.

9 MS. BURER: Do you recall where the life
10 jackets were?

11 MR. BLAKELY: Yes. When -- when the mate
12 told us, what do you call -- he told us that the life
13 jackets were under the seats. That was before we
14 capsized, a little bit before. I recall that he told
15 everybody that the life jackets were under the seats.

16 MS. BURER: Do you remember anything at all
17 regarding people moving from one side to another and
18 then sitting back down again?

19 MR. BLAKELY: I kind of recall hearing it --
20 the mate telling them to sit down or something like
21 that, the people moving from one side to the other. I
22 recall hearing that, but I didn't look back so I don't
23 know --

24 MS. BURER: Right.

25 MR. BLAKELY: -- what was going on.

1 MS. BURER: Did you feel (inaudible) that was
2 going on?

3 MR. BLAKELY: I really couldn't say.

4 MS. BURER: Okay, okay. And would you be
5 able to recall at all if -- what side they were moving
6 to and from?

7 MR. BLAKELY: I would say that they should
8 have moved from the right to the left because I recall
9 going, you know, sideways, that the left side was the
10 one that was tilting over. So it should have been from
11 left to right, but that's -- I can't really say.

12 MS. BURER: Okay. And then, after that
13 occurred, how long was it before the actual capsizing?

14 MR. BLAKELY: I can't recall either.

15 MS. BURER: Okay. All right. Do you
16 remember a back door on the pontoon?

17 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, it does, because when we
18 went to Fort McHenry I was -- I saw the back door and I
19 looked out the back door.

20 MS. BURER: Okay.

21 MR. BLAKELY: I remember that. It had --

22 MS. BURER: That was from -- to Fort McHenry?

23 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, when we were going to
24 Fort McHenry.

25 MS. BURER: Were you guys sitting in a

1 different place then?

2 MR. BLAKELY: Yes. We were sitting in back.

3 MS. BURER: Oh, okay.

4 MR. BLAKELY: When we went to Fort McHenry,
5 yeah.

6 MS. BURER: Okay.

7 MR. BLAKELY: I recall it had a door in the
8 back. And it wasn't a sliding door. I don't think it
9 was a sliding door in back. It was the one that opens
10 out. I know the front door was a sliding door.

11 MS. BURER: You remember seeing that going to
12 Fort McHenry. Was -- were the same passengers on there
13 to Fort McHenry and then leaving Fort McHenry?

14 MR. BLAKELY: I can't -- I can't tell.

15 MS. BURER: Okay. But it was the same --

16 MR. BLAKELY: Yes, it was the same water
17 taxi.

18 MS. BURER: Okay, okay. Do you remember
19 anything about the condition of the back door --

20 MR. BLAKELY: No.

21 MS. BURER: -- aside from that it was not a
22 sliding -- okay.

23 MR. BLAKELY: I helped -- that was one of the
24 doors that most of the people were able to get out to
25 --

1 MS. BURER: Right.

2 MR. BLAKELY: -- that I helped. But I don't
3 recall.

4 MS. BURER: When you were sitting in the back
5 going to Fort McHenry, do you recall anything of water
6 coming up?

7 MR. BLAKELY: No.

8 MS. BURER: Okay.

9 MR. BLAKELY: Yes, there was -- there was a
10 screw.

11 MS. BURER: Okay.

12 MR. BLAKELY: There was a screw that didn't
13 have -- that wasn't in place, and there was a little --
14 there was a wire (inaudible.)

15 MS. BURER: Okay.

16 MR. BLAKELY: Yeah, I saw that one. But that
17 -- you know, that's just a piece of metal there that I
18 found (inaudible) go out.

19 MS. BURER: All right. I don't have any
20 further questions. Is there anything that you would
21 like to add?

22 MR. BLAKELY: No, that's all --

23 MS. BURER: Okay.

24 MR. BLAKELY: -- of what I recall at this
25 time. If you need anything else, you can contact me

1 whenever you can. I hope this helps the investigation.

2 And I concur that this is being (inaudible) all this
3 information.

4 MS. BURER: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. BLAKELY: You're welcome.

6 (End of recording)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24